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MEMORANDUM FOR: Economic Defense Intelligence Committee and
MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, EDAC WG I

FROM : Acting Chairman, EDIC

SUBJECT : Information on Communist Chinese Procurement of
Facilities for the Production of Safety Glass.

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for your information. Release has been authorized to U.S. Foreign
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Acting Chairman

Attachment:

Information on Communist Chinese Procurement of Facilities
for the Production of Safety Glass.

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INFORMATION ON COMMUNIST CHINESE PROCUREMENT OF FACILITIES
FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SAFETY GLASS

I. Recent Procurement Attempts

A. Several recent reports indicate that Communist China has been trying to obtain machinery for the production of laminated sheet glass, although they do not specify what kind of facilities are sought. It is not known whether these transactions are entirely separate, nor if any has been completed.

B. In June of 1956, Communist China was reportedly negotiating with East Germany for the construction of a bulletproof glass factory near Peiping. A hydrogenation plant was reported to be part of this deal. Another report indicates that, in July of 1950, machinery for the production of safety glass was being purchased by Communist China in West Germany, for a factory in an unknown location which was to start operation in 1950. At the same time, Communist China sought to obtain in West Germany one million square feet of polyvinyl butyral, to be used for the lamination of safety glass.

2. Production of Sheet Glass

The sizable expansion of Communist Chinese output of ordinary sheet glass is shown by the following data:

Estimated and Planned Sheet Glass Production
in Communist China

<u>Year</u>	<u>Production</u> (thousands of square meters)
1953	24,305
1954	31,350
1955	34,000
1956	37,000 (plan)
1957	40,000 (plan)

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3. Other Glass

There is a glass factory in operation at Tung-Ch'ias-Chu, Peiping, known as the Peiping Glass Factory, which has received considerable space in the Communist Chinese press. This factory was procured from East Germany, and was built with the help of East German technicians. Apparently, some production has already begun, although full production is not scheduled until 1957. However, this plant is expected to produce glass pipe for laboratory and industrial use and flasks, beakers and test tubes for research purposes.

4. Conclusions

Available information does not indicate any current Communist Chinese production of transparent laminatable plastics, such as methyl methacrylate, or of laminating agents, such as polyvinyl butyral. (On the other hand, the trial manufacture of methacrylic acid resin at the Shanghai San-Hu chemical plant has recently been announced.) It is believed that Communist China is not yet capable of producing laminating agents on a commercial scale, and does not yet have facilities or technology for the lamination of glass or plastic.

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